

IN THE CLAIMS

On page 10, please substitute the paragraph beginning with "Claims" and ending with "Claims", as follows:

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CLAIMS  
We Claim:

In Claim 1, please substitute the claim as follows:

1. (Amended) Device for electrostatically maintaining a wafer of conductor or semi-conductor material, comprising an electrically insulating soleplate (1) on which the wafer (2) is arranged, at least two pairs of electrodes (7), (8), (9), and (10), where the electrodes of each pair are subjected to a voltage difference generated by a power supply (6) that supplies a D.C. voltage and thus creates an intense electric field, wherein said electrodes are arranged under the insulating surface, wherein the electrode pairs are supplied cyclically at different polarities in a manner so that at any moment at least one electrode pair holds the wafer.

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[ In Claim 2, please substitute the claim as follows: ]

2. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein the electrodes are concentric rings.

[ In Claim 3, please substitute the claim as follows: ]

3. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein arrangement of electrodes is symmetrical or concentric relative to the center of the soleplate (1).

[ In Claim 4, please substitute the claim as follows: ]

4. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein a planar surfaces of the two electrodes forming one pair have the same area.

[ In Claim 5, please substitute the claim as follows: ]

5. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein a surface of contact between the wafer and the adhesion device have geometric variations.

[ In Claim 6, please substitute the claim as follows: ]

6. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein said electrodes and the dielectric layer (23) are made by serigraphy of thick films on a base plate (22).

[ In Claim 7, please substitute the claim as follows: ]

7. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein a power supply cycle of the electrodes comprises:

From t0 to t1, the electrode (7) is supplied positively and the electrode (9) is supplied negatively.

From t1 to t2, the electrode (7) is supplied positively, the electrode (9) is supplied negatively and the electrode (8) is supplied positively and the electrode (10) is supplied negatively.

At t2, the electrodes (7) and (9) no longer need to be supplied with power since the electrodes (8) and (10) have taken over the relay.

From t2 to t3, the electrode (8) is supplied positively, and the electrode (10) is supplied negatively.

From 0 to t4, the electrode (8) is supplied positively, the electrode (10) is supplied negatively and the electrodes (7) and (9) are re-supplied, but at different polarities which allows the charges to drain off.

From 0 to t5, the electrode (7) is supplied negatively, and the electrode (9) is supplied positively.

wherein said cycle continues thus during the entire treatment or manufacturing phase of the wafer.

[ In Claim 8, please substitute the claim as follows: ]

8. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein each electrode (7), (8), (9) and (10) is split in two.

[ In Claim 9, please substitute the claim as follows: ]

9. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein frequency of commutation of the electrodes is between 0.01 Hz and 1 Hz.

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#### IN THE ABSTRACT

Please insert the following ABSTRACT on a separate page after the CLAIMS. The Abstract is attached on a separate page. There is no marked-up copy of this Abstract.